Use of Police Powers and Standards Scrutiny Panel
Summary of the meeting held on
Thursday 4 June 2026 at 9:30
Winfrith Conegar Boardroom & Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attendees:

Panel Members

David Sidwick (DS)	Police and Crime Commissioner (Chair)
Simon Bullock (SB)	Chief Executive
Adam Harrold (AH)	OPCC Director of Operations
Steve O'Connell (SO)	Member (Deputy Chair)
David Senior (DSe)	Member, Chair OoCR Scrutiny Panel
Erika Lindsay (EL)	Member
Bharati Joshi (BJ)	Member
Lionel Yafele (LY)	Member
John Sutcliffe (JS)	Member
Natalie Hill (NH)	Member
Simon Roach (SR)	Member

Dorset Police

Supt Stu Pitman (SP)	Force Command Centre
Chief Supt Heather Dixey (HD)	Force Contact Management
Sgt Lynette Rogerson (LR)	Dorset Professional Standards Dept
Insp Ian Davies (ID)	Representative for Stop & Search Lead
Chief Insp Ashley Smith (AS)	Force strategic Lead for Use of Force
Chief Insp Greg Tansil (GT)	Force Performance and Innovation

OPCC

Tom Smith (TS)	Scrutiny Manager
Jenny Heaver (JH)	Policy Officer
Georgie Munster (GM)	Executive Assistant to the SMT
Yvonne Fenwick (YF)	Governance Manager

Apologies:

Jim Phillips (JP)	Member
Scott Richardson (SR)	Member

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS/DECLARATIONSOFINTEREST/CONFIDENTIALITY

The Chair welcomed members and attendees. TS reminded the meeting of the requirements of the confidentiality agreement.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2026, were agreed to be a true and accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING/ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING by exception only

A comprehensive update on actions from the previous meeting had been circulated to members before the panel meeting. DS proposed that all actions are now closed. An error was identified in Paragraph 11.6 of the minutes.

PUBLIC CONTACT

SP and HD provided a comprehensive update on Contact Management for Quarter 4, from 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026.

DSe asked whether the force can provide reassurance to callers waiting 20-30 minutes. SP stated that a queue buster will be implemented later this year which will hold callers in the queue and enable to force to phone them back. EL asked if the force can outline the reasons for caller abandonment. SP stated that with the implementation of the Turnstyle system later this year, the force will have the ability to see this data.

SR asked why the abandonment rates have got worse this year when compared with last year. SP attributed this to resourcing and the delay in recruitment of trained staff. AH reinforced the point that abandonment occurs when callers have been waiting significant times during the call handling process.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG) IMPROVEMENT PANEL

JH provided an update on the VAWG Improvement Panel held on 23 April 2026.SO asked whether feedback is resulting to learning and development or changes to practice. JH stated that this is the 9th panel, and themes are emerging, and relevant changes should be implemented.

INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING (ICV) PANEL

NH provided an update on the ICV Panel held on 20 April 2026. DS asked whether the escalation of Inspector reviews has addressed the issue. NH stated that following the upcoming panel, assurance can be given in relation to the Inspector reviews issue. DS highlighted concern in relation to strip searches without appropriate adults.

OUT OF COURT RESOLUTION (OoCR) PANEL

DSe provided an update on the OoCR Panel held on 23 April 2026.

COMPLAINTS AND MISCONDUCT

Complaints Performance

LR provided a comprehensive update on the complaints performance with data on complaints received for Quarter 4, 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026. JS asked whether media events such as poor police officer behaviour, triggers wider complaints about the police. LR confirmed that this has a significant impact on the number of complaints. A large proportion of this correspondence does not qualify as a complaint, but they do represent an increase in dissatisfaction with the organisation.

Complaint Reviews

AH provided a comprehensive update on the Complaints Reviews Quarterly Dashboard for Quarter 4, 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026.

Dip Sampling of Complaints for Q3 2024/25

YF presented the results of the dip sampling of complaints handled by PSD in Quarter 4, 1 January 2026, to 31 March 2026.

DISPROPORTIONALITY

Use of Force Performance

AS provided a comprehensive update on the Use of Force for Quarter 4, 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026. JS asked if the force is looking at simulated training for scenario-based activities. AS stated, that officers do PPSE every year. Simulated learning is done as part of the process. DS asked whether the force still has blanks around race and ethnicity.

Stop and Search Performance

ID provided a comprehensive update on Stop and Search performance for Quarter 4,1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026.

STOP AND SEARCH DIP SAMPLE CASES INCLUDING BWV

One case of BWV was selected involving a stop and search.

WRITTEN FEEDBACK REPORT FROM FORCE INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY PANEL

GT presented a comprehensive update on the Force Public Scrutiny Panel held on 2 March 2026. DSe raised the topic of language and swearing used by the police and whether it is appropriate. GT stated that officers are not taught to use language, but it is recognised as a tactical tool to prevent escalation in some situations. DS noted that the environment and proximity to the public should be considered.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

DS Thanked TS for his contribution to the panel and wished him good luck with his retirement.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 3 September 2026

Meeting finished at 12:45